Setting up of Restructuring Commission

4479. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Standing Conference on Public Enterprises has asked Government to appoint a Restructuring Commission; and

(b) if so, what are Government's comments thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The Standing Conference on Public Enterprises (SCOPE), have suggested that a Public Sector Restructuring Authority (PSRA) may be established. The suggestion has been noticed.

Losses of Prasar Bharati Nigam

†4480. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati Nigam is running into lossess these days;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is being done by Government to check this loss; and

(d) by when Government would bring forward the Prasar Bharati Bill ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati is a Public Service Broadcaster and does not operate on commercial basis to make profit. Prasar Bharati, being a Public Service Broadcaster, devotes considerable time in its broadcast/telecast to social issues and news. Most of such programmes do not attract advertisements of sponsorship. However, Prasar Bharati tries to maximise its income by seeking sponsorship for more programmes and by more efficient utilization of advertising time available to it. During the year 1999-2000, it earned a record revenue of approximately Rs. 688. crores.

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.